

Merry may the maid be
 Merry may the maid be
 that marries the miller
 for foul day And fair day
 he's a bringing till her
 has a penny in his purse
 for dinner and for supper
 two in the clean good fat cheese
 And lumps of yellow butter

When Jamie first did woo me
 I feared what was he calling
 fair maid, say he come and he
 you've welcome to my dwelling
 though I was shy yet I could spy
 the truth of what he told me
 And that his house was warm and couth
 And room in it to hold me

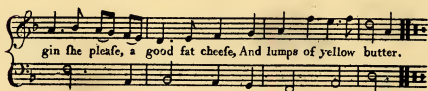
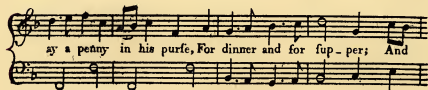
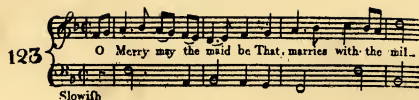
Behind the door a bag of meal
 And in the chest was plenty
 you have cakes his miller bakes
 and bannocks were na scanty
 A good fat cow a flecky cow
 that stann in the barn

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The Miller.



When Jamie first did woo me,
 I fear'd what was his calling;
 Fair maid, says he, O come and see,
 You're welcome to my dwelling:
 Though I was shy, yet I could spy
 The truth of what he told me;
 And that his house was warm and couth,
 And room in it to hold me.

Good signs are these, my mither says,
 And bids me tak the miller;
 For foul day and fair day
 He's a bringing till her:
 For meal and malt he does na want,
 Nor ony thing that's dainty;
 And now and then a keeking hen
 To lay her eggs in plenty.

Behind the door a bag of meal,
 And in the kist was plenty,
 Of good hard cakes his mither bakes,
 And bannocks were na scanty;
 A good fat fow, a flecky cow
 Was standin in the byre;
 Whilst lazy poufs with mealy moufe
 Was playing at the fire.

In winter when the wind and rain
 Blows o'er the houe and byre,
 He sits beside a clean hearth stane
 Before a rousing fire;
 With nut-brown ale he tells his tale,
 Which rows him o'er fou nappy
 Who'd be a king - a petty thing,
 When a miller lives fo happy.

A manuscript copy of this ballad was found in the Foster-Cheney House in Boxford among papers belonging to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The ballad has been traced by Mr. Phillips Barry to the Scots Musical Museum, edited by James Johnson, a friend of Robert Burns. See part II, 1788, Harvard Library number 25262.4.9 B.

ANNETTE SAWYER MANNY
 FRANK A. MANNY

Boxford, December 1930